

Megan Shaeffer

From: Hunter, William <william_hunter@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 1:52 PM
To: Megan Shaeffer
Cc: Plona, MARGARET
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Gorge Dam Removal 106 coordination materials

Dear Dr. Shaeffer,

On behalf of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Division of Resource Management, thank you for the opportunity to review the documentation prepared in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations for the proposed Gorge Dam Removal project. As you know, the Park supports proposed removal of the Gorge Dam, located in Gorge Metro Park in Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County, Ohio. The Park shares the desire to reestablish natural conditions and habitat along the middle and lower segments of the Cuyahoga River and remove Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC).

A park interdisciplinary team reviewed the cultural resource assessments and found that the methodology and approach outlined in the documentation is appropriate for a project of this scope and nature, and found the assessments of significance and integrity to be well-reasoned and supported by the historical record. The proposal for a project-specific programmatic agreement (PSPA) and the Conservation Plan are innovative approaches to a complex phased project, and would adequately account of the effects of the action on historic properties. We believe this approach will help your team effectively avoid or minimize effects to the extent possible, and mitigate any adverse effect that are necessary in order to meet the project purpose and need.

We look forward to supporting your efforts going forward, and welcome the opportunity to participate in the process as the project progresses.

Sincerely,

Bill

William M. Hunter
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NEPA and Section 106 Coordinator
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On Fri, Aug 9, 2019 at 11:40 AM Megan Shaeffer <MShaeffer@summitmetroparks.org> wrote:

Bill,

Materials are being provided to you in response to your request to be a consulting party on the Gorge Dam Removal project, located in Gorge Metro Park in Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County, Ohio. The dam is no longer used in electricity generation and is a serious impediment to the river's water quality, thus the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(USEPA), in cooperation with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), Summit Metro Parks (SMP), the City of Akron and the City of Cuyahoga Falls are considering its removal to improve the ecology of the Cuyahoga River.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its regulations as codified in 36 CFR 800, a review of historic properties was conducted to determine any potential impacts removal of the dam may have on cultural resources. Historic properties include archeological sites, burial grounds, sacred landscapes or features, ceremonial areas, traditional cultural places and landscapes, plant and animal communities, and buildings and structures with significant tribal association.

On August 9, 2019, history/architecture and archaeological assessments of the cultural resources within the project area were sent out for a 30-day review by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. These materials are also being provided for a 30-day review to tribes and organizations who have indicated they wish to be consulting parties. They are available at <ftp://rsth.dyndns.org/GorgeDamRemoval106Materials/>. At this FTP site you will find:

- The coordination letter sent to the State Historic Preservation Office
- *Gorge Dam Removal Architecture/History Survey* (Zimmerman 2019)
- *Report on the Historic Research and Archaeological Investigation of Gorge Metro Park, Cities of Cuyahoga Falls and Akron, Summit County, Ohio* (Whitman et al 2010) and its updated addendum (Gintert and Shaeffer 2019)
- *Archaeological Assessment of the Sediment Removal and Sediment Placement Project Areas in Cascade Valley Metro Park for the Gorge Dam Removal Project* (Shaeffer et al 2019).
- *Master Plan for Cultural Resources Monitoring and Conservation for Gorge Metro Park After Dam Removal* (Gintert 2019)

Please review these materials and forward any questions, concerns, or comments by September 13, 2019 so that these may be included in our coordination process. If you would prefer that digital files be sent to you via email, please let me know and I would be happy to provide them that way.

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend,

Megan

Megan Shaeffer, Ph.D.

Cultural Resource Coordinator

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